

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-28 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 9-11, 18 and 22 have been rejected.

Claims 19-21 and 23-28 have been allowed.

Claims 3-8 and 12-17 were objected to.

Claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 19, 22, 23, 27 and 28 has been amended as set forth herein.

Claims 1, 7, and 12 have been canceled.

New Claims 29-31 have been added.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 19-21 and 23-28.

The Examiner also indicated that Claims 3-8 and 12-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability and have rewritten the claims in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Specifically, Claim 1 has been canceled. Independent Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the allowable elements of dependent Claim 12. Allowable dependent Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form as new Claim 29. Also, independent Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the allowable elements of dependent Claim 14. The amendments to allowable Claims 19, 23, 27 and 28 are for purposes of formality and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

II. **CONCLUSION**

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicants assert that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an early allowance of such Claims.

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PATENT


If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *rmccutcheon@munckcarter.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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